AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please delete all prior lists of claims in the application and insert the following list of claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of producing microparticles comprising a bioactive and a vehicle, which method comprises

providing a solvent having a bioactive dispersed or dissolved therein and a vehicle dissolved therein,

carrying out an emulsification in a non-solvent phase to produce an emulsion comprising the bioactive and the vehicle in a solvent phase, and

evaporating the solvent to leave said microparticles, wherein a mixture of at least two surfactants is employed to ~~stabilise said~~ stabilize the emulsion and wherein the mixture has a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) of ~~HLB (hydophilic-lipophilic balance) of the mixture is~~ up to 8, and wherein the method yields microparticles having a ~~in order that the~~ median diameter of ~~the microparticles is~~ up to 100 μm.

2. (ORIGINAL) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said HLB is from 2 to 7.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said HLB is from 3 to 5.

4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein said HLB is from 3 to 4.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in any ~~preceding claim~~ one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4, wherein said mixture comprises sorbitan monoleate and sorbitan dioleate.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in any ~~preceding claim~~ **one of claims 1, 2, 3, or 4**, wherein said mixture is an equimolar mixture of two surfactants.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim **1**, wherein the vehicle is a polymer which enables pH-dependent and/or pH-independent release of the bioactive in the gastrointestinal tract.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ **claim 1**, wherein the vehicle is a polymer which enables pH-dependent release of the bioactive in the gastrointestinal tract.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim **1**, wherein the vehicle is an acrylic- based polymer, a cellulose-based polymer or a polyvinyl-based polymer.

10. (ORIGINAL) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the vehicle is a methacrylate polymer.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim **1**, wherein the vehicle comprises Eudragit® L100, Eudragit® L 100-55, Eudragit® S100, Eudragit® P4135, **or** Eudragit® RS100 **brand copolymers** or ethylcellulose.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ **claim 1**, wherein the vehicle is not Eudragit® RS **brand copolymer** alone.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim **1**, wherein the bioactive is prednisolone, bendrofluazide orbudesonide.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the solvent is ethanol or a mixture of acetone and ethanol or methanol.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the surfactants in said mixture are both added to the solvent phase, both added to the non-solvent phase, or wherein one is added to each phase.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the non-solvent phase is liquid paraffin.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the emulsification is carried out at a temperature from 10 to 30°C.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A composition of microparticles obtainable by means of a method ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ comprising:

providing a solvent having a bioactive dispersed or dissolved therein and a vehicle dissolved therein,

carrying out an emulsification in a non-solvent phase to produce an emulsion comprising the bioactive and the vehicle in a solvent phase, and

evaporating the solvent to leave said microparticles, wherein a mixture of at least two surfactants is employed to stabilize the emulsion and wherein the mixture has a hydrophilic-lipophilic balance (HLB) of up to 8, and wherein the method yields microparticles having a median diameter of up to 100 μm.

19. (ORIGINAL) A method of medical treatment comprising administering to a patient an effective amount of microparticles as claimed in claim 18.